







UTAH SUPREME COURT

Justices					
Confidence Score	Mild Republican	Mild Republican	Mild Republican	Mild Republican	Indeterminate
Opinion Partners					
Dissenting Minority					
Determining Majority					
Lone Dissenter					

- ▶ Number of justices: **5**
- ▶ Number of cases: **70**
- ▶ Percentage of cases with a unanimous ruling: **87.1% (61)**
- ▶ Justice most often writing the majority opinion: **Justice Lee and Durrant (17 each)**
- ▶ Per curiam decisions: **1**
- ▶ Concurring opinions: **5**
- ▶ Justice with most concurring opinions: **Justice Lee (3)**
- ▶ Dissenting opinions: **9**
- ▶ Justice with most dissenting opinions: **Justice Lee (5)**

COURT CONTENTION

Opinion partners/dissenting minority

There were no consistent opinion partners and no consistent dissenting minority on the Utah Supreme Court in 2020.

Determining majority

The Utah Supreme Court decided five cases by split decision in 2020. There was no consistent determining majority in those five cases. Each justice on the court dissented twice in split cases in 2020.

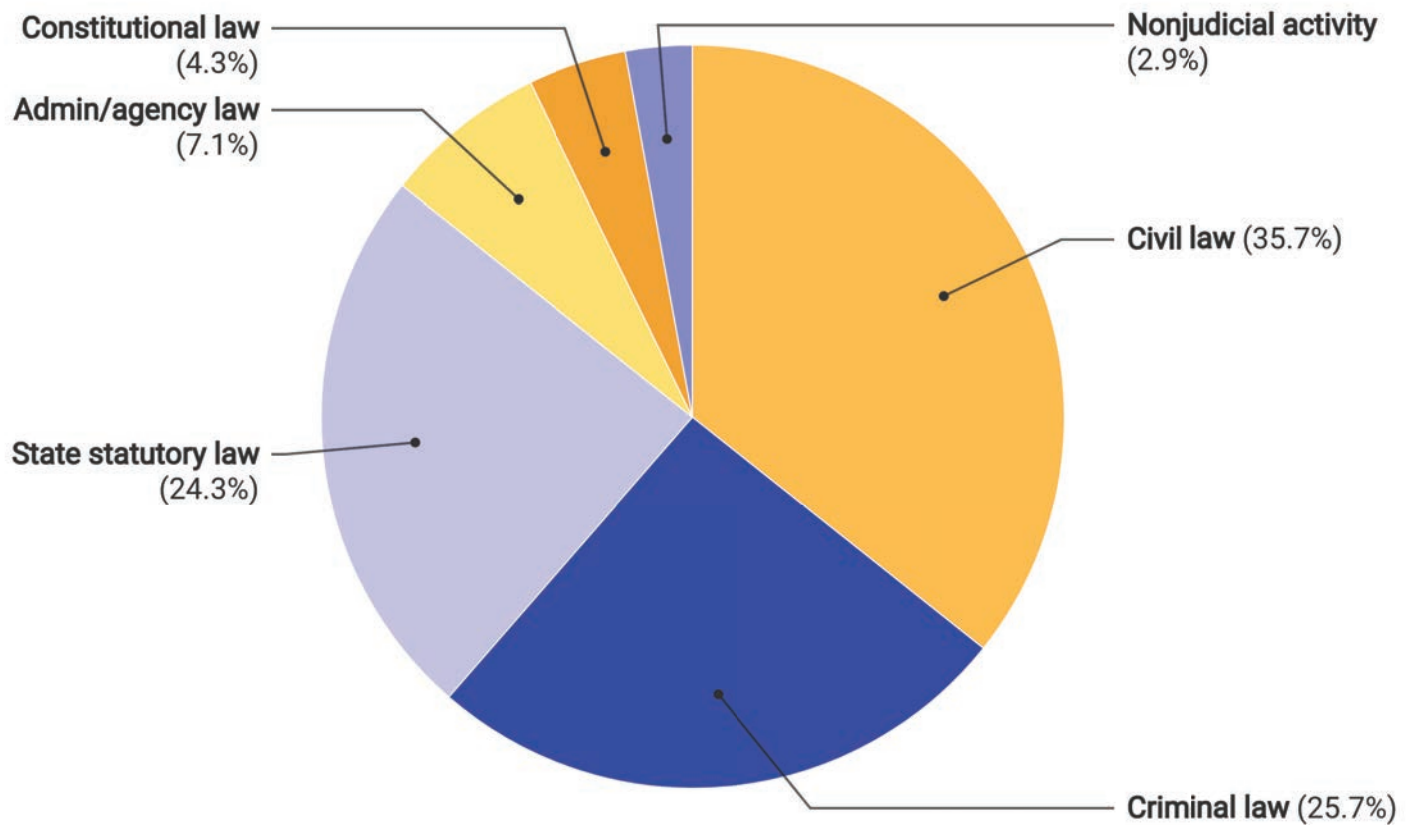
Lone dissenter

Justice Lee dissented alone three times, which was more frequently than any justice on the Utah Supreme Court in 2020. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study, Lee recorded a Mild Republican Confidence Score.

COURT JURISDICTION

The Utah Supreme Court has original jurisdiction over matters of state law that were certified from federal courts, and can also issue extraordinary writs. The court has appellate jurisdiction for cases of first-degree and capital felony convictions from the district court. Appellate jurisdiction also extends to civil judgments besides domestic cases. The court reviews the administrative proceedings of the Public Service Commission, the Tax Commission, the School and Institutional Trust Lands Board of Trustees, the Board of Oil, Gas, and Mining, and the State Engineer. Additionally, the supreme court also has jurisdiction over the rulings of the Utah Court of Appeals by writ of certiorari and both constitutional and election questions. The court makes final rulings of interpretation of the Utah Constitution, as well as adopting rules for civil and criminal procedure and rules of evidence for use in the state courts. The court has administrative power over the Judicial Conduct Commission and the practice of law in the state, including admission, conduct, and discipline of attorneys.

Case types decided by Utah Supreme Court, 2020



BALLOTPEDIA

The most common cases heard by the Utah Supreme Court in 2020 were civil cases. Of the 70 cases it heard, 25 were Civil Law cases, or 35.7 percent of its total caseload for the year. A civil case is one that involves a dispute between two parties, one of whom seeks reparations or damages.

The second most common cases that reached the supreme court were criminal cases. A criminal case involves a final criminal appeal before the court of last resort. The Utah Supreme Court heard 18 criminal law cases in 2020, or 25.7 percent of its total caseload for the year.

The third most common cases that reached the court were state statutory cases. A state statutory case involves the violation or enforcement of a state statute. The Utah Supreme Court heard 17 state statutory law cases in 2020, or 24.3 percent of its total caseload for the year.